

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EAID, KS

SUBJECT: SENATORS KENNEDY AND CRANSTON ANNOUNCE INTENTION
TO REVIEW U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ROK

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED BY SENATORS
KENNEDY AND CRANSTON MARCH 12 ANNOUNCING THEIR INTENTION
TO INITIATE REVIEW OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ROK.

QUOTE

WE ARE TODAY ANNOUNCING OUR INTENTION TO REQUEST THE STATE
DEPARTMENT TO BEGIN A DETAILED INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH KOREA. IT IS ALSO OUR
INTENTION THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE RESULTS OF THIS INVE-
STIGATION, CONGRESS UNDERTAKE A FULL REVIEW OF US ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THAT COUNTRY, UNDER THE INTER-
NATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL
ACT OF 1976, NOW IN CONFERENCE.

WE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DISTURBED OVER THE PAST SEVER-
AL YEARS BY THE CLEAR DRIFT OF THE PARK GOVERNMENT
TOWARDS A POLICY OF SYSTEMATIC REPRESSION. ANY OBJECTIVE
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REVIEW OF THE COLLECTIVE EFFECT OF THE MAJOR DECISIONS

TAKEN BY MR. PARK DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, POINTS TO THE EROSION OF MOST OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF DEMO-

CRATIC LIFE, INSTITUTIONS, AND PRINCIPLES.

LAST YEAR, IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO SILENCE ANY REMAINING OPPOSITION, PRESIDENT PARK PROCLAIMED "EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. 9" DECLARING ILLEGAL ANY CRITICISM OF HIS GOVERNMENT, UNDER THREAT OF IMPRISONMENT FOR UP TO 15 YEARS. THIS WEEK, WE HAVE WITNESSED A CHILLING DEMONSTRATION OF THE EFFECT OF THIS SWEEPING AND UNDEMOCRATIC PROCLAMATION.

ON MARCH 1, AT AN ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE HELD IN SEOUL CATHEDRAL, A 'DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY' WAS READ, CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY, A RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. THIS DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY TWELVE RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND ACADEMIC LEADERS IN KOREA. AMONG THEM WERE MR. KIM DAE JUNG, THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF 1970, MR. YUN PO SUN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOUTH KOREA, AND MR. CHUNG, ONE-TIME FOREIGN MINISTER. WITHIN HOURS OF THE PUBLIC READING OF THIS DOCUMENT, THESE TWELVE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR WIVES WERE ARRESTED AND DETAINED FOR INTERROGATION BY THE KCIA. A FEW WERE RELEASED THE FOLLOWING DAY. HOWEVER, THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED THAT MR. KIM DAE JUNG AND 10 OTHER CRITICS WOULD BE CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE.

THIS MORNING'S "NEW YORK TIMES" QUOTES AN OFFICIAL SOUTH KOREAN SPOKESMAN, WHO EXPLAINED HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS AS FOLLOWS: 'IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERPRETATION THAT CALLING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION IS THE SAME AS CALLING FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KOREA.' YET WHAT COULD BE MORE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY -- AND HUMAN RIGHTS -- THAN FREEDOM OF SPEECH, INCLUDING THE FREEDOM TO CRITICIZE ONE'S OWN GOVERNMENT?

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THE UNITED STATES HAS REAL ECONOMIC AND SECURITY INTERESTS IN KOREA, PARTICULARLY AS AN ADJUNCT TO OUR COMMITMENT TO JAPAN. 40,000 AMERICAN TROOPS ARE STATIONED IN KOREA; AND MANY THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS FOUGHT AND DIED IN THAT COUNTRY IN A LONG AND BITTER WAR. ALL TOLD, WE HAVE SPENT NEARLY \$12 BILLION IN FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR KOREA OVER THE LAST QUARTER CENTURY.

YET THE SECURITY OF KOREA DOES NOT REST UPON MILITARY OR ECONOMIC STRENGTH ALONE. IT HAS LONG BEEN CLEAR THAT

THE STEADY SYSTEMATIC EROSION OF LIBERTIES IN THAT COUNTRY ARE UNDERMINING THE BASIS OF COHESION, COMMITMENT, AND COMMON ACTION THAT KOREA MUST HAVE TO PROVIDE FOR ITS OWN SECURITY. THE CANCER FROM WITHIN IS DAMAGING SOUTH KOREA'S REAL INTERESTS -- AND OUR INTERESTS IN THAT COUNTRY -- JUST AS SURELY AS ANY POTENTIAL THREAT FROM WITHOUT.

YET DESPITE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF THE PERVERSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS -- AND OF THE WEAKENING OF THE POLITICAL FABRIC OF KOREAN SOCIETY THROUGH REPRESSION -- THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION HAS NEVER, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, EXPRESSED PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE GROWING REPRESSION OF THE PARK REGIME. AT BEST, IT OCCASIONALLY PAYS LIP-SERVICE TO A COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND INSTITUTIONS IN KOREA. YET WITHOUT STRONG PUBLIC SIGNALS TO THE CONTRARY, MANY AMERICANS AND KOREANS SUSPECT THAT UNITED STATES MILITARY SUPPORT SOMEHOW CONDONES OR EVEN CONTRIBUTES TO THE LONG WAVE OF REPRESSION.

LAST MONTH, THE SENATE PASSED THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976. THIS LEGISLATION, WHICH PASSED THE HOUSE IN SIMILAR FORM AND IS NOW IN CONFERENCE, CONTAINS EXPLICIT PROVISIONS CALLING FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS; AND IT DIRECTS THE PRESIDENT TO FORMULATE AND CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT WILL HELP PROMOTE THE ACHIEVING OF THAT OBJECTIVE.

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UNDER THESE MEASURES -- IF SIGNED INTO LAW -- THE FULL SENATE, OR THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, MAY REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO FILE A REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS, TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 1) A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES OF THE COUNTRY IN QUESTION.
- 2) STEPS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO DISCOURAGE PRACTICES WHICH VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO DISSOCIATE SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM SUCH PRACTICES.
- 3) AND WHETHER AID SHOULD BE CONTINUED ANY-

WAY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

ALSO, THE CONGRESS BY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, CAN, WITHIN
30 DAYS, REJECT THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

AND THUS MODIFY OR END SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTRY
IN QUESTION.

FURTHERMORE, UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
FOOD ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1975, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN ENAC-
TED INTO LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS ALREADY PROVIDE
FOR A SIMILAR PROCESS TO DETERMINE WHETHER TERMINATION
OR SOME RESTRICTION OF THE AID PROGRAM TO SOUTH KOREAN IS
WARRANTED.

WE DO NOT TAKE THIS ACTION LIGHTLY. WE ACCEPT THAT THE
UNITED STATES STILL HAS A COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA; WE ARE NOT PROPOSING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD THREA-
TEN EITHER AMERICA'S OR KOREA'S LONG-TERM SECURITY IN-
TERESTS -- RATHER WE SEEK TO PROMOTE THEM. INDEED, WE
BELIEVE THAT THOSE VERY INTERESTS MAY BE IN GREATER
DANGER NOW, IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR AND REPRESSION
ENCOURAGED BY THE PARK REGIME, THAN FROM A THREAT OF
MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

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